

Verbs Alive

Good writing uses lively, active verbs. When sentences are dull, it is usually because the verbs are lifeless.

Rewrite each sentence below, replacing the dull, ordinary verbs in italics with verbs that are alive. Then add a sentence, using another verb that is alive.

Ordinary: The wolf *came* to the door and *said*, "Let me in, or I'll *disturb* your house."

Alive: The wolf *crept* to the door and *snarled*, "Let me in, or I'll *demolish* your house!" The three little pigs *buddled* in fear.

1. Philip *said*, "I love you, Elizabeth! Really!"

2. Louise glanced at the fruitcake and gasped, "Rashad, you've *made* a multi-fruited masterpiece!"

3. Harold opened his jaws wide and *bit* off 12 square inches of pineapple pizza.

4. The beauty queen *walked* up to the judges and slammed her crown on the table.

5. Paula *took* off her mittens and threw them into the fire.

6. Walter *walked* into the bedroom and fell flat on his face.

7. The pigeon *sat* on the dead branch, mourning the loss of his friend Earl.

Verb Variety

Every activity has its own set of movements and behaviors. Verbs describe these movements and behaviors.

List at least ten verbs for each of the activities below. Use verbs that are specific, vivid and alive. For example, don't write the verb *walk*. It's too vague. Use *march*, *stomp*, *skip*, *limp* or some other verb that portrays the *exact* movement.

Example

Bake cookies:

dump, pour, mix, stir, roll, flatten, shape, grease, bake, watch, cool, remove, gobble



Build a snowman	
Throw a party	
Fly a kite	
Make a banana split	
Clean your room	

